

WANDERERS RULED THE HIGH SEAS!

by ARGUS

Wycombe Wanderers 4 Maidstone United 2

WITH the sharp eyes of Kettering spy Jimmy Potts watching them from the pavilion harbour, Wycombe Wanderers commanded the Loakes Park high seas on Saturday. A useful looking Maidstone side made a couple of piratical assaults which resulted in goals but the Wanderers—sharp and lively—were never in danger of dropping a point.

But for veteran Danny Wiltshire, a spider-stanced goalkeeper who peered through the rain and twilight with rare anticipation, the Wanderers would have doubled their score.

NEW MEN SCORE

The Wycombe attack—the best unit on the field—found it all too easy to send Maidstone defenders slithering the wrong way. New-comers Tommy Holmes and Sheldon Bressington both scored goals and confirmed the good impression they made on their debut.

Bressington, particularly, is not yet acclimatised to the pace of Isthmian soccer and needs to pounce more quickly on the marginal penalty area chances. But no Wanderer looks stronger or more determined en route for goal.

The thoughtful artistry of Holmes is making as important an impact on the Wycombe forwards. His knack of shooting unexpectedly would have baffled a lesser goalkeeper than Wiltshire.

Yet it was Wycombe's new-style right wing which cut out the goals.

Tantalising quick switches by Paul Bates and Len Worley had lanky left-back Mike Everest chasing shadows as first one and then the other would pop up on the far wing to glide onto a long delicately flighted through ball. Worley crosses made two of the goals and Bates scored a fourth.

Using their speed enterprisingly Maidstone had a fair share of the first half play but the defensive arc of pivot John Fisher and full backs Dave Worley and Dennis Atkins resisted well.

Atkins, who scored the first Isthmian League goal against Maidstone, last season, netted with an unstoppable shot after Holmes had been tripped outside the penalty area. Maidstone equalised within seconds danger-man Colin Warnett heading a centre almost out of Ken Brown's arms.

PERFORMED MARVELS

After Bressington had headed Wanderers back into a 15th minute lead, from a left-wing Worley centre! — Wiltshire performed marvels to keep the interval score down to 2-1.

Maidstone came back well after half time but in between a series of Wycombe escapes Worley broke clear on the right and swung across the perfect centre for Holmes to calmly flick the ball past Wiltshire. Maidstone kept up the temperature with some fighting football and deservedly reduced the gap in the 75th minute through the persistent Warnett.

But it was Paul Bates who dominated the closing minutes. He was terribly unlucky not to score on two occasions before killing United's chances with the best shot of the match—a swerving drive which utterly deceived Wiltshire.

THAT WYCOMBE REVIVAL IS HERE TO STAY

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ANY doubts Wycombe supporters may have had about their side's recent revival were settled by the sparkle of their display against Maidstone.

In a thrill-packed Isthmian League tussle of hard-hitting marksmanship and first-time tackling, Maidstone found no answer to a slick combination.

The swift interchanging of the home attack was inspired by the brilliance of internationals Paul Bates and Len Worley on the right-wing and greatly strengthened by the inclusion of a thrustful new-comer, Holmes, at inside left.

A sixth-minute goal by the Wycombe left-back Atkins from a free-kick just outside the penalty area was equalised almost at once by Colin Warnett, the roving danger man of a never-say-die Maidstone attack.

But there was no denying the relentless cut and thrust of the Wycombe forwards, who were well worth their 2-1 interval lead after Bressington's smart 15th-minute header from Worley's centre.

Another brilliant run by Worley enabled Holmes to claim a third for Wycombe four minutes after the restart.

But die-hard Maidstone, with Warnett and Myers opening up repeated counter-attacks, kept the issue in the balance with another goal from Warnett, until nine minutes before the end when Bates scored the best goal of the match after an electrifying solo run.